

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **Claim 1 (Previously Presented)** Method of reinforcing a metal container against seismic or paraseismic stresses, in which the metal container is surrounded over at least part of its height with carbon fibre fabric bonded to the external surface of the metal container and in which the carbon fibre fabric is placed in bands extending substantially around the entire circumference of the metal container, predominantly in a direction substantially perpendicular to an axis of the metal container.
2. **Claim 2 (Previously Presented)** Method according to Claim 1, in which the carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal container in such a way that the carbon fibres lie predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to an axis of the metal container.
3. **Claim 3 (Previously Presented)** Method according to Claim 1, in which the metal container is at least partly filled and in which the metal container is surrounded with a carbon fibre fabric without the metal container being emptied.
4. **Claim 4 (Previously Presented)** Method according to Claim 1, in which the carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal container so as to bypass projecting regions on the said part of the external surface of the metal container.
5. **Claim 5 (Previously Presented)** Method according to Claim 1, in which the carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal container in several superposed layers.
6. **Claim 6 (Previously Presented)** Method according to Claim 5, in which the number of superposed layers of the carbon fibre fabric varies with the height along the metal container.
7. **Claim 7 (Previously Presented)** Method according to Claim 5, in which the carbon fibre fabric is placed in bands and in which the superposed layers are offset with another by half the

width of a band.

8. Claim 8 (Currently Amended) Metal container reinforced against seismic or in which the ~~metal container~~ is paraseismic stresses, surrounded over at least part of its height with carbon fibre fabric bonded to the external surface of the metal container, the carbon fibre fabric being placed in bands extending substantially around the entire circumference of the metal container, predominantly in a direction substantially perpendicular to an axis of the metal container.

9. Claim 9 (Previously Presented) Metal container according to Claim 8, in which the carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal container in such a way that the carbon fibres lie predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to an axis of the metal container.

10. Claim 10 (Previously Presented) Metal container according to Claim 8, at least partly filled, the metal container being surrounded with a carbon fibre fabric without being emptied.

11. Claim 11 (Previously Presented) Metal container according to Claim 8, in which the carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal container so as to bypass projecting regions on the said part of the external surface of the metal container.

12. Claim 12 (Previously Presented) Metal container according to Claim 8, in which the carbon fibre fabric is bonded to the external surface of the metal container in several superposed layers.

13. Claim 13 (Previously Presented) Metal container according to Claim 12, in which the number of superposed layers of the carbon fibre fabric varies with the height along the metal container.

14. Claim 14 (Previously Presented) Metal container according to Claim 12, in which the

carbon fibre fabric is placed in bands and in which the superposed layers are offset with respect to one another by half the width of a band.

15. Claim 15 (Newly Presented) A method of reinforcing a generally cylindrical metal container, having an axis, against seismic or paraseismic stresses, comprising the steps of: passively surrounding at least part of its axial height with carbon fibre fabric over the external surface of the metal container by carbon fibre fabric bands extending substantially around the entire circumference of the metal container, predominantly in a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal container and bonding the fabric to the outside metal surface with an adhesive.

16. Claim 16 (Newly Presented) The method according to Claim 15 in which the carbon fibre fabric comprises carbon fibres predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal container.

17. Claim 17 (Newly Presented) A metal container reinforced against seismic or paraseismic stresses, comprising a generally cylindrical container with a longitudinal axis surrounded at least over part of its height with carbon fibre fabric passively bonded by adhesive to the external surface of the metal container, said carbon fibre fabric being placed in bands extending substantially around the entire circumference of the metal container, predominantly in a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal container.

18. Claim 18 (Newly Presented) A metal container according to Claim 17 in which the carbon fibre fabric comprises carbon fibres that lie predominantly along a direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of the metal container.